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Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its third session

General Assembly
Official Records
Twenty-third special session
Supplement No. 2 (A/S-23/2)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[2 May 2000]

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In paragraph 45 of its resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly decided to convene, in the year 2000, a high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[1] and the Platform for Action,[2] five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should act as the preparatory committee for the high-level review, and invited the Commission to report to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress achieved in the preparations for the review.

2. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 52/231 of 4 June 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/2 of 7 May 1998, decided that the high-level plenary review should be held as a special session of the Assembly from 5 to 9 June 2000. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly also decided that the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women would be extended by five days each in order to complete the preparations for the special session.

3. The report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee on its first session is contained in the report of the Commission on its forty-second session;[3] and the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its second session is contained in document E/1999/60 and Add.1.

4. At its third session, the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee should be transmitted directly to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session (see chap. V, sect. C).

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

5. The Preparatory Committee held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 17 March and 20 April 2000. The Preparatory Committee held five meetings (1st to 5th) and a number of informal meetings.

6. The session was opened by the Chairperson, Roselyn Ruth Asumwa Odera (Kenya).

7. At the 1st meeting, on 3 March, the Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Preparatory Committee.

8. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement.

9. Also at the 1st meeting, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

10. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997, the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee were open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and to members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly.

11. The following States were represented: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

12. Palestine, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission at Headquarters, was also represented.

13. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Population Fund and World Food Programme.

14. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

15. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Caribbean Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, International Organization for Migration, International Organization of la Francophonie, Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States and Organization of the Islamic Conference.

16. The International Committee of the Red Cross, an entity invited to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, was also represented by an observer.

17. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1998/301 of 16 December 1998, non-governmental organizations that either were in consultative status with the Council or had been accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women also attended the session.

C. Officers

18. The officers of the Preparatory Committee, who had been elected at its second session and resumed second session in 1999, remained:

Chairperson:

Roselyn Ruth Asumwa Odera (Kenya)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Asith Bhattacharjee (India)
Patricia Flor (Germany)
Misako Kaji (Japan)
Christine Kapalata (United Republic of Tanzania)
Sonia R. Leonce-Carryl (Saint Lucia)
Mónica Martínez (Ecuador)
Kirsten Mlačak (Canada)
Rasa Ostrauskaitė (Lithuania)
Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia)

19. At the 2nd meeting, on 3 March, Mónica Martínez (Ecuador) was designated Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities.

20. At its 5th meeting, on 20 April, the Preparatory Committee elected Christine Kapalata of the United Republic of Tanzania Chairperson by acclamation to replace Roslyn Ruth Asumwa Odera (Kenya), who was unable to complete her term as Chairperson.

21. The Preparatory Committee also elected Aicha Afifi (Morocco) as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation to fill the post vacated by Ms. Kapalata upon her election as Chairperson.

D. Agenda and organization of work

22. At its 1st meeting, on 3 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda and approved its proposed organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2000/PC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

3. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly.

E. Documentation

23. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.6/2000/PC/1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and corrigenda);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the comparative report on how different categories of projects and programmes of United Nations organizations include women's interests and gender mainstreaming issues and on resources allocated in this regard (E/CN.6/2000/PC/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues containing additional material for further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/4);

(e) Letter dated 1 December 1999 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/5);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of regional meetings held in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/6 and Add.1-5);

(g) Letter dated 11 February 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/7);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/8);

(i) Note by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/9);

(j) Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Lima Consensus and the resolutions adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at its eighth session, Lima, 8-10 February 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/10);

(k) Proposed outcome document submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.1/Rev.1);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.2);

(m) Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, entitled "Arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.3);

(n) Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.4);

(o) Draft political declaration submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.5);

(p) Draft decisions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, Rasa Ostrauskaitė (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Provisional agenda" and "Organizational arrangements for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.6);

(q) Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, entitled "Resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.7);

(r) Draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.8 and Add.1);

(s) Note by the Secretary-General containing a summary of the WomenWatch online working groups on the twelve critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.1);

(t) Note by the Secretariat containing a summary of the general debate by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session on agenda items 3 (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women) and 4 (Comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action) (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.2);

(u) Summary submitted by Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, moderator of the panel discussion entitled "Outlook on gender equality, development and peace beyond the year 2000", held by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on 6 March 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.3).

Chapter III
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

24. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 at its 1st to 5th meetings, on 3, 6 and 17 March and 20 April 2000. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and corrigenda);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the comparative report on how different categories of projects and programmes of United Nations organizations include women's interests and gender mainstreaming issues and on resources allocated in this regard (E/CN.6/2000/PC/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues containing additional material for further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/4);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of regional meetings held in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/6 and Add.1-5);

(e) Letter dated 11 February 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/7);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/8);

(g) Note by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/9);

(h) Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Lima Consensus and the resolutions adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at its eighth session, Lima, 8-10 February 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/10);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General containing a summary of the WomenWatch on-line working groups on the twelve critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.1);

(j) Note by the Secretariat containing a summary of the general debate by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session on agenda items 3 (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women) and 4 (Comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action) (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.2);

(k) Summary submitted by Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, moderator of the panel discussion entitled "Outlook on gender equality, development and peace beyond the year 2000", held by the Commission acting

as the preparatory committee on 6 March 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.3).

25. The Preparatory Committee held a general discussion on the agenda item at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 March.

26. At the 1st meeting, on 3 March, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Luxembourg, Denmark, China, Cuba, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Thailand, Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America), Algeria, Morocco, Venezuela, the United States of America, the Philippines and Madagascar.

27. At the 2nd meeting, on 3 March, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Solomon Islands (also on behalf of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Ghana, Pakistan, the Sudan, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

29. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement.

30. At the same meeting, the observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat also made a statement.

31. Also at the 2nd meeting, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

32. At the same meeting, the representative of the World Food Programme made a statement.

33. Also at the 2nd meeting, the observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also made a statement.

34. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 March, the Preparatory Committee held a panel discussion and dialogue on "Outlook on gender equality, development and peace beyond the year 2000", under agenda item 2. It heard presentations by the following panel of experts: Yoriko Meguro, Professor, Department of Sociology, Sophia University, Tokyo (Japan); Rosalba Todaro Cavallero, economist and researcher at the Centre for Women's Studies, Santiago de Chile (Chile); Carolyn McAskie, Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i., and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations; and Krisztina Morvai, Assistant Professor of Law at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (Hungary).

35. The principal elements emerging from the panel discussion were summarized by the moderator of the panel, Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, in document E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.3. The text was approved by the Preparatory Committee for inclusion as an annex to its report on its third session (see annex II).

36. At its 5th meeting, on 20 April, the Preparatory Committee also agreed to annex to its report on its third session the summary of the general debate held by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session on agenda items 3 and 4 of that session, which related to agenda item 2 of the third session of the Preparatory Committee (see annex I).

Action taken by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

Draft decisions E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.3 and E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.4

37. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.3) and a draft decision entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.4), both submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

38. The Preparatory Committee was informed that the draft decisions contained no programme budget implications.

39. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decisions at its fifty-fourth session (see chap. V, sect. A, draft decisions I and II).

Draft political declaration contained in document E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.5

40. At its 4th meeting, on 17 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it the text of a draft political declaration (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.5), submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

41. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, Misako Kaji (Japan), in her capacity as facilitator of the negotiations on the document, informed the Preparatory Committee of revisions made to the text as a result of informal consultations.

42. The Preparatory Committee then recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session the adoption of the draft political declaration, as orally revised (see chap. V, sect. B, draft resolution).

43. After the adoption of the draft political declaration, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

Draft decisions I and II contained in document E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.6

44. At its 4th meeting, on 17 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" and a draft decision entitled "Organizational arrangements for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (both contained in E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.6), both submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, Rasa Ostrauskaitė (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations.

45. The Preparatory Committee was informed that the draft decisions contained no programme budget implications.

46. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session the adoption of the draft decisions (see chap. V, sect. B, draft decisions I and II).

Documents relating to agenda item 2

47. At its 4th meeting, on 17 March, the Preparatory Committee took note of the following documents under agenda item 2:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and corrigenda);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues containing additional material for further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000 (E/CN.6/2000/PC/4);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of regional meetings held in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2000/PC/6 and Add.1-5) (see chap. V, sect. D, decision 2000/PC/1).

Draft decision E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.7

48. At its 4th meeting, on 17 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.7), submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

49. The Chairperson made a statement.

50. Following statements by the representatives of Pakistan, the Holy See, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, Mexico and Cuba, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft decision (see chap. V, sect. C).

Chapter IV
Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on its third session

51. At the 5th meeting, on 20 April 2000, Mónica Martínez (Ecuador), as Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities, introduced the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.8 and Add.1).

52. Statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt, Tunisia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan and the Russian Federation.

53. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

54. At the same meeting, following statements by the Chairperson and the Secretary, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chairperson with its completion.

Chapter V
Recommendations of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee

A. Decisions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

55. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I*
Arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly:

(a) Decides that representatives from non-governmental organizations accredited to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" may make statements in its Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole;

(b) Also decides that, given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session provided neither that their application for consultative status with the Council has been rejected nor that their consultative status with the Council has been withdrawn or suspended, and that non-governmental organizations should be requested to select spokespersons among themselves and provide the list thereof to the President of the General Assembly through the Secretariat; and further decides to request the President of the Assembly to present the list of selected non-governmental organizations to Member States in a timely manner for approval and to ensure that such selection is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of non-governmental organizations;

(c) Decides that the above arrangements concerning participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session of the General Assembly will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

* Adopted by the General Assembly at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 15 March 2000 (see Assembly decision 54/466).

Draft decision II*
Arrangements regarding accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 54/142 of 17 December 1999, Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/50 of 29 July 1999 and the resolution adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" at its second session:

(a) Decides to reconsider the question of accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", which is contained in Assembly resolution 54/142;

(b) Also decides that those interested non-governmental organizations that neither are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, nor were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process, may participate in the special session, that these non-governmental organizations should submit their application for accreditation to a committee composed of the Bureau of the preparatory committee and the Secretariat by 5 April 2000, and that the application should contain the following information:

(i) The purpose of the organization;

(ii) Information identifying the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the special session and indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(iii) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels;

(iv) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(v) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

(vi) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(vii) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

and further decides that the Bureau of the preparatory committee should submit by 10 April 2000 to the members of the preparatory committee a list of the non-governmental organizations that submitted their applications, for approval, that the list should contain information on each organization's competence and relevance to the subject of the special session, and that members of the preparatory committee will have until 10 May 2000 to decide on a no-objection basis regarding accreditation of these non-governmental organizations;

(c) Decides that those non-governmental organizations whose application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was rejected or whose consultative status with the Council was withdrawn or suspended shall not be accredited to the special session;

(d) Urges, in recognition of the importance of equitable geographical participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session, relevant United Nations bodies to assist those non-governmental organizations that do not have resources, in particular non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in participating in the special session;

(e) Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to the community of non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures as well as information on supportive measures for participation in the special session;

(f) Decides that the above arrangements concerning accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the special session of the General

* Adopted by the General Assembly at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 15 March 2000 (see Assembly decision 54/467).

Assembly will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

B. Resolution and decisions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session

56. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" recommends to the Assembly at its twenty-third special session the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft political declaration

The General Assembly,

Adopts the Political Declaration annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Political Declaration

We the Governments participating in the special session of the General Assembly

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the goals and objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration[4] and the Platform for Action,[5] adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[6] to the year 2000 as the culmination of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976 to 1985;

2. *Also reaffirm* our commitment to the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action, which are women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child; and call for the implementation of the agreed conclusions and resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since the thirty-ninth session of the Commission;

3. *Recognize* that we have primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and all the relevant commitments for the advancement of women, and, in this connection, call for continued international cooperation including the reaffirmation to strive to fulfil the yet-to-be-attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible;

4. *Welcome* the progress made thus far towards gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and reaffirm our commitment to accelerate the achievement of universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and in this regard acknowledge the efforts at all levels of Governments, the United Nations system, and intergovernmental, other international and regional organizations and urge continued efforts for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

5. *Recognize* the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and encourage their participation in further implementation and assessment processes;

6. *Emphasize* that men must involve themselves and take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality;

7. *Reaffirm* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of implementation of the outcome of other major United Nations conferences and summits and the need for a coordinated follow-up to all major conferences and summits by Governments, regional organizations, and all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system within their respective mandates.

We the Governments at the beginning of the new millennium

8. *Reaffirm* our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and to strengthening and safeguarding a national and international enabling

environment, and to this end pledge to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation, *inter alia*, through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes and promoting women's full participation and empowerment and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

9. *Agree* to regularly assess further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a view to bringing together all parties involved in 2005 to assess progress and consider new initiatives, as appropriate, ten years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and twenty years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

10. *Pledge* to ensure the realization of societies in which both women and men work together towards a world where every individual can enjoy equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century.

57. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" also recommends to the Assembly at its twenty-third special session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Provisional agenda of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following provisional agenda for its twenty-third special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Namibia.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action.
9. Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.
10. Adoption of the final document(s).

Draft decision II
Organizational arrangements for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-third special session, to be held at Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2000.

A
President

1. The twenty-third special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

B
Vice-Presidents

2. The Vice-Presidents of the twenty-third special session should be the same as those of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

C
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-Third Special Session.

4. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairperson and nine Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

D
Credentials Committee

5. The Credentials Committee of the twenty-third special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

E
General Committee

6. The General Committee of the twenty-third special session should consist of the President and the twenty-one Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

F
Rules of procedure

7. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the twenty-third special session.

G
Level of representation

8. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, participation in the twenty-third special session should be at a high political level.

H
Debate in plenary

9. Statements in the debate in plenary should not exceed seven minutes.

10. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary should be established by a drawing of lots. Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes or Princesses and Heads of Government should be given precedence in the establishment of the list of speakers and in the speaking order and should have equal standing as regards the list of speakers. They should be followed by Deputy Prime Ministers/Ministers, Ministers, Chairpersons of Delegation/Vice-Ministers and Chairpersons of Delegation.

I
Allocation of items

11. All items of the draft provisional agenda should be allocated to the plenary, and items 8 and 9 should also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

J
Participation of speakers other than Member States

12. Observers may make statements in the debate in the plenary.

13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, States members of specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations may participate in the twenty-third special session in the capacity of observers.

14. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the twenty-third special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women.

15. Heads of United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other entities in the United Nations system may make statements in the debate in plenary. Representatives of the United Nations system may also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. These arrangements will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly.

16. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/466 of 15 March 2000, given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also make statements in the debate in plenary. Representatives of non-governmental organizations may also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. These arrangements will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

17. Pursuant to chapter V of the Beijing Platform for Action, and in view of the role of the Committee on the

Elimination of Discrimination against Women in contributing to the implementation of the Platform for Action, the Chairperson of that Committee will be invited to participate in the debate in plenary. This invitation will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly.

K
Schedule of plenary meetings

18. Ten plenary meetings will be held over the five-day period, with two meetings per day as follows: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

C. Decision recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

58. The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To authorize the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" to hold a resumed session, subject to the availability of services, for one day, on an exceptional basis, in order to complete the work of its third session;

(b) Notwithstanding General Assembly resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and without setting a precedent for future special sessions of the Assembly for which the functional commissions of the Council may be requested to act as preparatory bodies, to transmit directly to the twenty-third special session of the Assembly the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session.

D. Decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee

59. The following decision, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", is brought to the attention of the Assembly:

Decision 2000/PC/1
Documents relating to item 2 of the agenda of the third session of the preparatory committee

The Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;[8]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues containing additional material for further actions and initiatives for the preparation of the outlook beyond the year 2000;[9]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of regional meetings held in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly.[10]

Notes

[1] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 7* (E/1998/27 and Corr.1).

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[7] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[8] E/CN.6/2000/PC/2 and corrigenda.

[9] E/CN.6/2000/PC/4.

[10] E/CN.6/2000/PC/6 and Add.1-5.

Annex I

Summary of the general debate by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session on agenda items 3 (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women) and 4 (Comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action)

Note by the Secretariat

1. During the general debate, 67 Member States, as well as Colombia on behalf of the Rio Group, Nigeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the associated country Cyprus, the European Free Trade Association, countries members of the European Economic Area and Iceland, in addition to Palestine, addressed agenda items 3 and 4. Speakers made suggestions related to the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" to review progress in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action.

2. Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action as the fundamental document not open to renegotiation. They acknowledged it as an essential instrument for the achievement of gender equality and underlined the importance of seeing the review of its implementation as part of the process for women's advancement. Delegates emphasized the need for the special session to give a new impetus to the implementation of the Platform for Action, as the five years since its adoption had been too short a time-span for effective implementation of all commitments. The hope was expressed that the review would result in an effective outcome document, with specific, concrete measures and time-bound targets to overcome remaining obstacles. Such a document should be useful not only to Governments, but also to the United Nations system and other key actors, including non-governmental organizations. Future actions and initiatives should be based on best practices and lessons learned from the review and appraisal process, with the promotion and protection of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms forming the basis for all future actions. The issues that different regions faced in implementing the Platform for Action should also be considered and reflected in the outcome of the special session. Several delegates indicated the need to set measurable targets, and identify strategies and operational mechanisms, rather than determine new goals to fulfil the Beijing commitments. Delegates stressed that the implementation of the commitments required reinforced political commitment, *inter alia*, through the earmarking of resources and continuous monitoring.

3. Many delegates indicated that, while much progress had been made in implementing the Platform for Action's recommendations at the international, regional and national levels, significant barriers to full implementation still remained. Those barriers were not insurmountable, but dedicated political will and sufficient resources were required to address them. Committed efforts from society as a whole and partnerships, *inter alia*, between nations and between Governments and non-governmental and civil society organizations as well as men and women, were also required. The crucial importance of men's involvement in the promotion of gender equality was particularly stressed. Some delegations called for the active participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session, *inter alia*, through the expansion of participation of organizations established after the Beijing Conference. The convening of a fifth world conference on women as a natural forum for innovative partnerships between Governments and civil society was also suggested.

4. Several delegations stressed the role of the Commission in ensuring implementation of the Platform for Action. It was noted that the Commission's future role, programme of work and mandate needed to be assessed and strengthened in the light of the outcome of the special session, and bearing in mind the integrated follow-up to the major United

Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s. A few delegates further emphasized the importance of the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council in assessing the progress made within the United Nations system to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences. Interaction and coordination between and among the Council and the functional commissions to strengthen efforts to mainstream a gender perspective required improvement. The Commission's continued ability to play a catalytic role in this regard needed to be ensured.

5. Delegations drew attention to the special role of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the contribution of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the full implementation of the Platform for Action. Regret was expressed that the Platform for Action's goal of universal ratification by the year 2000 had not been met, although many welcomed the opening of the Optional Protocol to the Convention for signature, ratification and accession. Several delegations indicated their intention to sign the Optional Protocol during the session, or in the near future. Others expressed the intention to ratify or accede to the instrument during 2000. Some delegations emphasized that the Committee's resources would need to be adjusted in the light of its new responsibilities under the Optional Protocol.

6. The important role of international development cooperation in supporting national efforts was underscored by many delegations as creating an enabling environment for the Platform for Action's implementation. Delegations highlighted particular areas in which progress in implementation of the Platform for Action had been made. These included the increased awareness of the gender dimensions of national policies ranging from security to social and economic concerns. There had been increased worldwide attention to poverty and gender-based violence against women, reduction in women's illiteracy rates, reduction in maternal mortality and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. Gender mainstreaming had emerged as the key global strategy to implement measures to promote equality between women and men and the evaluation of progress in its implementation was urged, as was the integration of a life-cycle approach into all actions.

7. During the discussion, a number of issues were identified as constituting particular challenges to the further implementation of the Platform for Action. These included the lack of human and financial resources. Concern was expressed that globalization, although providing opportunities for women, also had the capacity to affect them negatively, and to deprive them of their human rights, including the right to development. Unequal access to improved communications technology also constituted a challenge, as did the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, which was affecting Africa disproportionately. The persistence and deepening of poverty among women and girls, especially certain groups, such as indigenous women and girls and older women, also constituted an obstacle, which was exacerbated in situations of transition and economic crisis. Developing countries highlighted the impact of the debt burden on implementation, while delegates, particularly from Asia, drew attention to the disproportionate impact of recent financial crises on women. Stereotypic attitudes towards the gender roles of women and men impeded the achievement of equality and encouraged such discriminatory practices as gender-based violence against women and traditional practices harmful to the health of women and girls. The proliferation of civil unrest, political upheaval and armed conflict, as well as international terrorism, with their attendant gender-specific abuses and the resulting displacement, particularly of women and children, both internally and across State borders remained a significant challenge.

8. Delegates provided information during the debate on actions taken to implement the Platform for Action. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its gender-sensitive provisions and procedures were highlighted, as was the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Regional, subregional and national programmes to address violence against women were cited, including efforts to combat trafficking in women. Many delegations described the formulation of national action plans and specific allocations for gender programming within national budgets. In addition, gender-mainstreaming strategies, the establishment and strengthening of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, law reform and reproductive health programmes were mentioned. In most cases, this

information had been reflected in government responses to the questionnaire regarding the implementation of the Platform for Action.

9. Delegations acknowledged the contribution of the United Nations system, as reflected in the assessment of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, including lessons learned. These serve as the basis for the preparation of the new plan for the period 2002-2005. New efforts were called for in order to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations Secretariat by the year 2000.

Annex II

Summary submitted by Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, moderator of the panel discussion entitled "Outlook on gender equality, development and peace beyond the year 2000", held by the Preparatory Committee on 6 March 2000

1. On 6 March 2000, the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held a panel discussion entitled "Outlook on gender equality, development and peace beyond the year 2000", which was followed by a dialogue among the panellists, Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The panellists were: Yoriko Meguro (Japan), Professor, Sophia University, who discussed population, fertility and development from a gender perspective; Rosalba Todaro Cavallero (Chile), Economic Adviser, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer, who discussed gender aspects of globalization and poverty; Carolyn McAskie, Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i., Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations, who discussed gender, humanitarian assistance and conflict resolution; and Krisztina Morvai (Hungary), Eötvös Loránd University, who discussed gender and human rights in the context of democratic transition.

2. Participants at the panel discussion and the dialogue noted that the effects of globalization were not the same for women and men. The process of economic restructuring and adjustment of national economies to the requirements of globalization brought with it substantive changes in tax systems, the reduction of public expenditures and labour costs, through reduced contribution to social security, and greater vulnerability of the individual. Women were differently affected owing to their vulnerable position in the labour market caused by job segregation. There was a need for compensatory policies that addressed the effects of restructuring, on the one hand, and policies that would restructure the women's agenda, enhancing women's capacity to take full advantage of the global economic changes, on the other. In order to successfully implement these policies, gender mainstreaming had to be implemented at all levels of Government. At the same time, protective measures were needed for women in irregular and temporary employment.

3. Several speakers mentioned that there was a need to value the reproductive work of women and include it in the gross domestic product (GDP) and tax system. It was noted that family responsibilities restricted women's choices and often obliged them to accept work of poorer quality, with less pay and social protection. The division of labour between men and women, in particular between productive and reproductive activities, was an underlying factor that needed to be addressed. Advocacy was needed to raise awareness and give a higher profile to women's contributions. In this respect, the introduction of the gender budget was considered an important step.

4. It was emphasized that the impact of globalization was mixed. While globalization had brought rapid growth in some countries, it increased recession in others. The negative impact of globalization, in particular its impact on public expenditures for health and education, was a major challenge. The micro-macro economic balance was affected in some countries. At the microeconomic level, women were among the poorest of the poor, in particular in the rural areas of developing countries.

5. Concern was expressed by some speakers about the impact of globalization and structural adjustment measures that deprived some Governments of resources needed for social development and the promotion of gender equality, *inter alia*, for the implementation of the recommendations of global conferences such as the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development. The debt burden of many developing countries was an additional obstacle that had an impact on much-needed programmes in the field of reproductive health and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) prevention and treatment. It was noted that countries in the Asia-Pacific region felt particularly affected by cuts in the public sector. There was a risk that gains made in developing countries would be lost and that the situation would worsen in the near future.

6. Participants noted the well-documented correlation, in particular in developing countries, between women's education and fertility rate, as well as between women's education and infant and maternal mortality rates. The link between poverty, illiteracy and rural residence was highlighted. In industrialized countries, there was a relationship between fertility and social responses, which could take the form of government policies or private sector or individual initiatives. However, it was stressed that the effects of education were different in a given context and analysis should take into consideration other data and facts. There was general agreement that further efforts should be deployed to enhance the education of women and girls.

7. With regard to implementation of the Platform for Action, it was noted that Governments and politicians often had limited information on women's rights and issues and were not familiar with international documents such as the Platform for Action. The question was raised how the actors identified in the Platform for Action, such as branches of Governments, civil society, professional associations and the international community, could be made better aware of the recommendations addressed to them.

8. Suggestions for Governments, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe, included media coverage of United Nations-based campaigns for women's rights, or a visit of a high-ranking United Nations official.

9. In the area of humanitarian assistance and conflict resolution, speakers noted with concern that the systematic and strategic targeting of civilian populations in modern wars had a disproportionate effect on women and girls, since 80 per cent of all refugees and internally displaced persons were women and children. Their basic economic and social rights, as well as civil and political rights, were severely affected. Conflict increased women's vulnerability to sexual violence and rape and put them at risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies. Rape often led to rejection and marginalization of the victim and, in particular, of children born of rape. The loss of husband and children often caused a loss of identity for women whose status had been defined solely by the roles of wife and mother and who faced widowhood and female headship of their household.

10. Special emphasis was put on the recognition of rape as a war crime which represented an important step forward. Speakers called upon the special session of the General Assembly to address in particular the plight of girls with unwanted pregnancies resulting from rape. They recommended severe punishment for those perpetrating gender-specific war crimes against women. It was emphasized that there were gaps between governmental knowledge of and sensitivity towards violence against women. A call was made for non-governmental organizations and delegates to work together to effectively implement the Platform for Action's recommendations.

11. Recent efforts of the international community to integrate gender into humanitarian activities, *inter alia*, at the inter-agency level and by the Security Council, were welcome. There was a general agreement that humanitarian efforts could be effective only if they were gender-sensitive. Representatives called for the protection of civilians, particularly women and children, through: distribution of food; counselling and legal, medical and other forms of support; training for women and their involvement in development and reconstruction projects; and gender-sensitivity training of humanitarian workers. Mainstreaming efforts should be applied during the whole process, *inter alia*, when delivering aid. Measures should be taken to reduce violent conflict through comprehensive prevention and to promote a culture of peace. Representatives of non-governmental organizations urged Governments to recognize women as equal partners, effective actors and experienced contributors to preventative diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. The importance of equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building processes, was highlighted. It was suggested that gender quotas for all peace processes be introduced. Speakers urged Governments to reallocate military expenditures for development and peaceful purposes. They also called for an end to impunity for crimes committed against women in armed conflict and the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

12. The issues of trafficking in and violence against women were of concern to many representatives. Gender-sensitive education and training — targeting children in general but also professional groups such as

law enforcement personnel — were seen as being of vital importance for the detection and prevention of violence against women. There was also recognition that advocacy and education alone were insufficient when women lacked the economic means to break free from domestic or other forms of violence. Speakers urged international organizations to provide economic assistance in creating job opportunities for women. Legislation was identified as an important vehicle to combat violence and trafficking. Other measures included cooperation among States, support and allocation of resources for the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and a concerted, coordinated international effort to punish perpetrators.

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